

**01157**

**1989/06/22**

United States Department of State  
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review  
Review Authority: MILLER, ROBERT  
Date: 04/16/96  
Case ID: 9206307

UNCLASSIFIED  
Department of State

SECRET

RELEASED IN PART 971

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

PAGE 81 OF 82 BEIJING 16871 80 OF 84 220948Z  
ACTION EAP-88

4199 EAP4421

ACTION OFFICE CM-85  
INFO J-85 K-83 TB-82 TC-81 P-81 RA-81 LAB-81 UN-81 PNU-81  
EAP-85 1826 43 FL

INFO LOG-84 AG3-88 INR-85 EUR-88 SS-88 CIAE-88 NSCE-88  
NSAE-88 ISO-88 MA-81 PM-83 INAE-88 ANAE-88 SP-82  
P-82 1823 V

0 220948Z JUN 89 135533 220948Z /22 18

FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1516  
INFO AIT TAIPEI  
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI  
AMCONSUL SHENYANG  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
SECDEF WASHDC  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
AMCONSUL CHENGDU (FOUCH)

SECRET BEIJING 16871

LINDIS

SECDEF PASS OSD, ISA AND DIA

CINCPAC FOR FPA FINNEY

E.R. 12356: DECL: GADR

TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PIRN, CVIS, CN

SUBJECT: TIANANMEN - EYEWITNESS CHINESE ACCOUNT OF JUNE  
4 "PLA TANK CRUSHING" STUDENTS AND RELATED EARLY  
MORNING EVENTS IN TIANANMEN SQUARE

REFS: A) FBI 042106183819, B) BEIJING 16846

1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: [REDACTED]

UNIVERSITY STUDENT WHO SPENT THE NIGHT OF JUNE 3-4 IN  
TIANANMEN SQUARE DESCRIBED ON JUNE 28 EVENTS AND  
DEATHS HE HAD WITNESSED, INCLUDING AN EARLY MORNING  
INCIDENT DURING WHICH 11 STUDENTS WERE CRUSHED TO  
DEATH BY A PLA TANK AT THE INTERSECTION OF LIUBUKOU  
AND CHANGANJIE. END SUMMARY.

3. [REDACTED]

A  
NUMBER OF OTHER DEMONSTRATORS HAD SEEN WHAT HE HAD  
SEEN ON JUNE 3-4, THE STUDENT DECLARED, BUT MOST WERE  
TOO FRIGHTENED FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO  
TELL THE TRUTH NOW. HE CONTINUED THAT AFTER THE  
TANKS WENT BY, HE WENT OVER TO COUNT THE FLATTENED  
CORPSES OF HIS COLLEAGUES SO THAT HE COULD BEAR  
RELIABLE WITNESS LATER IN HOPES OF ULTIMATE JUSTICE  
AND RETRIBUTION FOR THE KILLINGS.

NO RUBBER BULLETS

4. THE STUDENT SAID THAT ON JUNE 4 AROUND 2 A.M. HE  
WAS POSITIONED IN CHANGANJIE, THE AVENUE OF LASTING  
PEACE, JUST NORTH OF THE EAST END OF THE GREAT HALL

BEIJING 16871 80 OF 84 220948Z  
OF THE PEOPLE. HIS YOUNGER BROTHER WAS ELSEWHERE IN  
THE SQUARE; THEY HAD BOTH BEEN THERE FOR MANY DAYS.  
ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 3, THE STUDENTS BELIEVED THAT  
WHEN TROOPS CAME IN TO TAKE THE SQUARE, THEY WOULD  
FIRE RUBBER BULLETS. CONSEQUENTLY, MANY OF THE  
STUDENTS IN THE FIRST LINE OF BARRICADES ON THE EAST  
AND WEST SIDES OF CHANGANJIE HELD UP PADDED COATS TO  
PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THE PROJECTILES. HOWEVER,  
THE FIRST LINES OF STUDENTS FELL AFTER THE TROOPS  
OPENED FIRE. THE STUDENT SAID HE HAD ALSO BEEN  
CONVINCED THAT RUBBER BULLETS WOULD BE USED. HE HAD  
A SICKENING FEELING WHEN HE NOTICED TWO BULLETS  
STRIKING SPARKS OFF THE PAVEMENT NEAR HIS FEET. HE  
SAID THAT HE SAW MANY STUDENTS FALL DURING THE  
ENSUING HOUR. HE BECAME ENRAGED AT THE DEATHS OF HIS  
COLLEAGUES, HE SAID, AND THREW BRICKS AT THE ONCOMING  
TROOPS OUT OF A DESIRE FOR REVENGE AND A RAGED FOR  
WHAT THEY WERE DOING, EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW THERE WAS  
NO MATCH. "IN BATTLE, YOU STOP THINKING AND JUST  
FIGHT", HE SAID.

S. WHEN THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CASUALTIES, THE  
STUDENT SAID HE AND ANOTHER STUDENT USED A MAKE-SHIFT  
STRETCHER TO CARRY THE DEAD AND WOUNDED TO THE  
NEAREST RED CROSS AREA, WHICH WAS LOCATED IN THE  
SQUARE'S NORTHWEST CORNER. HE SAID THAT HE HIMSELF  
MADE NO FEWER THAN A DOZEN TRIPS, AND HE RECKONED  
FROM THE STATE OF THE WOUNDED THAT ONLY TWO OF THOSE  
HE CARRIED WOULD SURVIVE. HE CITED ONE LOCAL  
RESIDENT WHO HAD BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY BRAVE. EVEN AS  
THE TROOPS CONTINUED TO FIRE BETWEEN APPROXIMATELY 2  
AND 3 A.M., THE RESIDENT MADE 22 JOURNEYS ON HIS  
THREE-WHEELED CART FERRYING WOUNDED FROM A FIRE ZONE  
TO THE RED CROSS AREA.

VOTING ON THE EXODUS

6. WHEN CONTINUED RESISTANCE WAS CLEARLY FUTILE,  
PERHAPS AROUND 4 A.M., THE STUDENT SAID THAT THE  
LEADERS ANNOUNCED OVER THE BROADCASTING SYSTEM THAT  
THEY WOULD PUT TO A VOICE VOTE WHETHER EVERYONE  
SHOULD STAY OR VACATE THE SQUARE. THE STUDENT SAID  
THAT THE VOICES SHOUTING "STAY" WERE ACTUALLY JUST AS  
NUMEROUS AS THOSE WHO VOTED "LEAVE", BUT THE LEADERS  
ANNOUNCED THE MAJORITY DECISION AS "LEAVE". THE  
STUDENT SAID THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO VOTED TO STAY  
WERE OUT-OF-TOWNSERS WHO HAD COME IN FOR THE  
DEMONSTRATIONS AND WHO REALLY HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO  
GO. AFTER TALKING WITH THE TROOP COMMANDERS SENT IN  
TO CLEAR THE SQUARE, THE STUDENT LEADERS AGREED TO  
VACATE THE SQUARE ALONG A SOUTHEAST CORRIDOR FROM THE  
CENTRAL MONUMENT. THAT A  
FEW THOUSAND "JIATANGJIE" ACTUALLY EXITED VIA THE  
CORRIDOR.

7. THE STUDENT ALSO SAID THAT THEY LEFT BEHIND BOTH  
LIVING AND DEAD DEMONSTRATORS. HE SAID THAT AMONG  
THE DEAD, HE HAD LEARNED FROM OTHERS, WERE TWO RED  
CROSS WORKERS DRESSED IN THEIR UNIFORMS WHO WERE  
NONETHLESS GUNNED DOWN. HE ALSO SAID THAT NO ONE  
DARED ADMIT THIS FACT NOW, INCLUDING THE RED CROSS.  
HE IS CONFIDENT THAT EVENTUALLY THE TRUTH WILL BE  
TOLD.

8. THE LARGE GROUP OF STUDENTS THAT EXITED THE  
SQUARE TURNED WEST ON CHANGANJIE, PASSING THE  
KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN AND THE BEIJING DUCK

UNCLASSIFIED

9308, 11896

SECRET  
UNCLASSIFIED  
Department of State

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

PAGE 82 OF 82 BEIJING 16971 08 OF 04 220948Z  
RESTAURANTS. THEY TURNED NORTH ON LIUBUKOU ROAD.  
THE GROUPS WERE ORGANIZED, FOR THE MOST PART, BY  
THEIR INSTITUTIONS OF STUDY, WITH BEIJING UNIVERSITY  
AT THE HEAD FOLLOWED BY QINGHUA UNIVERSITY, THE  
UNIVERSITY OF POLITICS AND LAW, TIANJIN UNIVERSITY,  
ETC. AS THE BEIJING STUDENTS ROUNDED THE CORNER ONTO  
CHANGANJIE, THEY, AND THE STUDENTS BEING THEM  
SUCCESSIVELY, SQUATTED AT THE FOUR TO SIX STATIONARY  
TANKS FACING WEST ON CHANGANJIE THAT THE TROOPS WERE  
BEASTS AND FASCISTS.

8. THE STUDENT SAID THAT WITHOUT ANY WARNING THE  
TANKS STARTED TOWARD THEM. ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE  
STREET, TANK NUMBER 100 (PRESUMABLY, BUT NOT  
NECESSARILY, OF THE 8TH TANK DIVISION, WHICH IS KNOWN  
TO HAVE ENTERED THAT NIGHT FROM THE WEST), SUDDENLY  
DID A U-TURN NEAR THE TELEGRAPH BUILDING ENTRANCE,  
WHERE THE STUDENT AND MANY OTHERS HAD RUN FOR REFUGE.

9. THE STUDENT SAID THAT ONLY THE TELEGRAPH  
BUILDING OFFERED A BREAK IN THE METAL FENCE ON BOTH  
SIDES OF THE STREET, SO HE WAS FORTUNATE TO ESCAPE  
INTO THE FULLY CROWDED ENTRANCE WAY. TANK NUMBER 100  
THEN RACED BACK FASTER THAN A PUBLIC BUS NORMALLY  
WOULD INTO OTHER ONCOMING STUDENTS MARCHING WEST.  
THE STUDENT SAID ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES ATTEMPTED TO  
LEAP THE SOUTH FENCE, BUT ONLY SUCCEEDED IN HANGING  
ONTO THE FENCE. HIS LEGS WERE CUT OFF. (SEE REF A'S  
ANTE-PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH FOR ANOTHER VERSION OF  
THIS INCIDENT.)

10. AFTER SOME SORT OF GAS BOMB WAS THROWN FROM A  
TANK DECK BELOW AND ALL THE TANKS HAD PASSED, THE  
STUDENT SAID HE WALKED OVER FROM THE TELEGRAPH  
BUILDING ENTRANCE TO COUNT THE BODIES SO THERE WOULD  
BE AT LEAST ONE RELIABLE WITNESS LATER TO THE  
KILLINGS. HE SAID THAT THE BODIES WERE SMASHED FLAT,

11. IN ALL -- JUST AS IN A DONALD DUCK CARTOON --  
EXCEPT THAT HE NOTICED THE GRAINS SQUISHED OUT BESIDE  
THE FLATTENED HEADS. A FEW BICYCLES IN THE GROUP  
WERE SMASHED TO CARICATURES OF VEHICLES. THE SIGHT  
WILL NEVER LEAVE HIM, HE SAID, AND HE HOPED THAT BY  
REPORTING IT, SOMEDAY JUSTICE WOULD ULTIMATELY BE  
DONE IN AVENGING THESE DEATHS.

THE USE OF GAS

12. THE STUDENT SAID THAT ONE OF THE OTHER TANKS,  
NOT NUMBER 100, HAD PASSED BY HIS GROUP AND LOBBED  
OUT A KIND OF GAS BOMB. HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY  
WHAT THE GAS WAS, EXCEPT THAT THE SMOKE WAS YELLOW  
AND ANYONE WHO CAUGHT A WHIFF HAD VERY SORE GLANDS  
("FANGZI") IN THE THROAT. NO ONE CRIED, HE SAID, SO  
HIS COLLEAGUES HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS CHLORINE --  
NOT TEAR -- GAS. HE COULD NOT SAY POSITIVELY WHAT  
THE GAS WAS.

OTHER RECOUNTED EVENTS (SEE REF B)

13. [REDACTED] ASKED THE STUDENT WHY IT TOOK FROM 5  
A.M. TO 6 A.M. TO GO THE RELATIVELY SHORT DISTANCE  
FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF TIANANMEN TO THE CORNER  
OF CHANGANJIE AND LIUBUKOU. THE STUDENT SAID THAT  
PROGRESS WAS VERY SLOW BECAUSE SO MANY BEIJING  
RESIDENTS LINER THE QIANNAN AREA AND, CRYING,  
INSISTED ON SHARING AND HOLDING HANDS WITH EACH OF  
THE STUDENTS COMING OUT FROM THE SQUARE.

4199 EAP4421

BEIJING 16971 08 OF 04 220948Z

4199 EAP4421

14. THE STUDENT SAID THAT HE LATER LEARNED

[REDACTED] THAT OTHERS HAD DIED IN  
THE SQUARE AFTER THE MAIN BODY OF STUDENTS AND  
DEMONSTRATORS LEFT. THE YOUNGER BROTHER'S  
CLASSMATE'S ELDER

15. [REDACTED] ACCORDING TO THIS STUDENT'S ACCOUNT,  
SOME OF THE STUDENTS WHO STILL REFUSED TO LEAVE AFTER  
6 A.M. WERE CRUSHED TO DEATH WITH METAL TRUNCHEONS  
ABOUT 4 FEET LONG. ALSO, ACCORDING TO THE SAME  
SOURCE, AROUND 7:30 A.M. A SMALL NUMBER OF BODIES  
WERE STACKED TOGETHER AND BURIED. THE STUDENT WAS  
UNABLE TO GIVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS; HE SAID HE DID  
NOT KNOW THAT THOSE REPORTS WERE TRUE ALTHOUGH HE  
PERSONALLY BELIEVED THEM.

16. IN RIDING

15. [REDACTED]

16. COMMENT: THE STUDENT'S ACCOUNT PROVIDES  
EYEWITNESS EVIDENCE OF SOME DEATHS ON EITHER EDGE OF  
THE NORTH END OF TIANANMEN SQUARE AND OF THE DEATHS  
OF 11 STUDENTS ON CHANGANJIE AFTER THE PLA STREP.  
ELEMENTS OF HIS ACCOUNT DOVTAIL WITH THE OFFICIAL  
VERSION, E.G., THE SOUTHEAST CORRIDOR PEACEFUL EXIT  
OF A MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS LEFT IN THE SQUARE  
AROUND 5 A.M. HIS ACCOUNT OF THE LIUBUKOU-CHANGANJIE  
CRUSHING OF 11 STUDENTS BY PLA TANK NUMBER 100  
TALLIES WITH REPEATED ACCOUNTS OF A MASSACRE IN THAT  
AREA THAT CIRCULATED WIDELY AND SOICKLY (E.G., REF  
A). IN HIS TELLING, THE ONLY PROVOCATION BY THE  
STUDENTS WAS THE CHANTING TAINTED "BEASTS! FASCISTS!".  
WE FIND HIS ACCOUNT OF THAT EPISODE CREDIBLE. HIS  
ACCOUNTS OF OTHER INCIDENTS ARE WORTH RECORDING AS  
OTHER EVIDENCE BECOMES AVAILABLE. LILEY

UNCLASSIFIED